



British Boots & Bonnetts Chronicle

Voice of the BBC

Volume 26
Issue 2
Apr 15, 2021

Editor
Lynda Vickery

Website
[www.britishbootsand
bonnets.com](http://www.britishbootsandbonnets.com)

Next Meeting
Wednesday,

April 21, 2021

Thunder Bay Grille
7652 Potawatomi Trail
Rockford, Illinois
(near East State Street and
Bell School Road)

**Dinner and social hour
at 6:30pm**

Presidents Report

April 2021

Welcome to April 2021 and I hope the outlook for this year is much better than last year. The vaccines are being delivered at a high rate, and all adults will be able to receive one this month. I feel this means that we will be able to have a more normal year for activities going forward.

As far as activities, this month, April 21 our normal monthly meeting day, we will be having a Dine type get together at Thunder Bay in our normal meeting room. The tables will be set individually to get more separation than we would have had with the U arrangement. I will send a special email out with information on this Dine. It will be nice seeing the people we haven't for a year. The plan is to resume normal monthly meeting in May.

In the last monthly report, I indicated we had two Board Positions open, Vice President and Events Chairman. I am very happy to say the we do have an Events Chairman. Greg Oakes has indicated that he will fill this opening. When I talked to Greg, he indicated that he would like input from the members on events going forward and review how the membership can be involved with the planning and the events.

I am keeping this short this month. If you are interested in the open position, Vice President, let me know. Duties can be found in the By Laws which are on the website.

Safety Fast,

Lee Kindgren



TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT

Connie Frazier

The Club provides financial information to members only. If you have any questions please refer them to our Treasurer, Connie Frazier.

REMEMBER DUES AREN'T DUE!

Connie Frazier

It's a new year and the BBB board is pleased to help start it off on a positive note. Last year was challenging in many ways and, for the club, it meant a reduction in activities, benefits, and expenses. Because BBB currently has a fund balance which is sufficient to carry the club for the coming year, the board made a decision to provide 2021 membership at no cost to those who paid dues in 2020. We hope you enjoy this additional membership benefit!

BBB Webmaster Report – April 2021

Greetings all, as car clubs around the state and country begin the process of re-starting after quarantines are scaled back, I'd like to start building our BBB 2021 club website calendar once again. If you know of any upcoming spring, summer or fall British car related events, shows, or activities that might be of interest to anyone viewing our website, I'd appreciate hearing from you. Please consider sharing information with me that you might receive from other car clubs and would like to recommend for the BBB website. I would be happy to add them to our calendar of activities. I've found that posting other car club events provides a reciprocal benefit for BBB, and can introduce our club to prospective new members and other British car enthusiasts.

Please send an email, text, or call with your ideas. And remember, only British car related events. Our BBB club activities will be added over the coming months and as details get finalized. Go to www.britishbootsandbonnets.com and navigate to the Club Information Tab and Events Calendar Page. Remember to check back occasionally for new additions and the latest updates.

Thanks for your continued and ongoing support for our web-based efforts,
Hal Zenisek
BBB Webmaster
hzenisek@comcast.net
(815) 978-4205

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

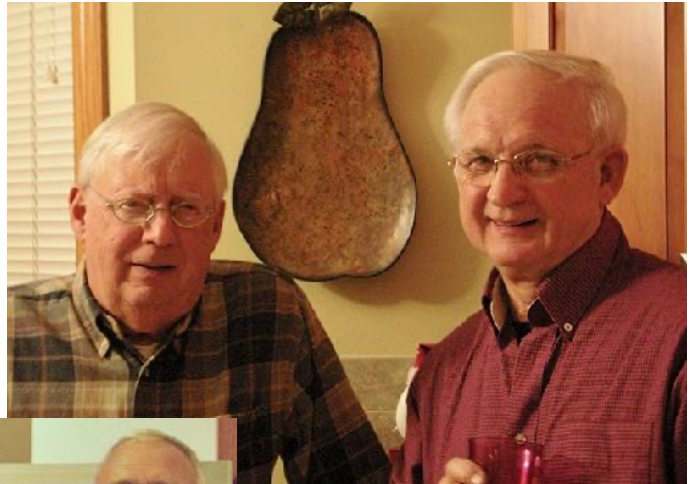
The future looks promising as the Club gears up for it's first event of the year; a dine and visit at Thunder Bay on Wednesday, April 21st. It seems like it's been forever since we've been there! It has been! Almost a year!!

As Greg takes over the events chairmanship, please support him with your ideas and offer to head up a particular event you are interested in. For an opener Bruce & Phyllis Beneditz and I belong to the Roscoe United Methodist Church. They have been very active this last year adapting and creating new ways of doing things. One event they have hosted over the last few years is called Ice Cream Thursdays when they offer free ice cream to people driving by, and after a few years, people are making a point to come. This year they want to showcase a different car club each week. and they have asked if we would like to participate. We are scheduled for June 24th, anytime between 6:30 and 8:00. Watch the next Chronicle for more details.

And on a personal note, on behalf of Jim's and my family I would like to invite you to a Celebration of Jim's Life on Saturday, August 7th, noon to ?? We have reserved a Pavilion at Hononegah Forest Preserve. There will plenty of food, reminiscing, and parking for our British Cars. Watch the Chronicle for details on this too!

Lvnda

Continuing our trip down memory lane (in our British cars of course!), here are more of Rich Cannistra's photos. Do you remember?



Events during November and December 2011.





Events during April, May, and June 2012



BRITISH CAR CLUB NEWSLETTERS

The Covid-19 issues over the last several months have impacted British car clubs all over the country. Their newsletters, "MG Driver" and "The British Marque" have been great at reporting various activities clubs have been able to have as well as offering tech and advice articles. If you haven't checked any of these web based sources, please do. I know I have been surprised at what I have learned.

As an example, I am reprinting (with Permission) an article and a funny photo from The Peachtree MG Registry newsletter. And I will include more articles in future Chronicle issues.

Enjoy!, Lynda

Why Do We Do This?

By
Steve Ratcliffe

Let's talk about the "Car Hobby." Have you ever stopped to think about what it is and why people do it? Have you ever thought about why *you* do it? To me, the term "Car Hobby," or "Car Hobbyist," has a vast definition. Basically, I see it as including the maintaining, repairing, designing, collecting, and/or generally spending large amounts of time, effort, and money on cars.

I consider myself one of these people, although not as talented as most. I was born with cars on the brain. Yes, I played with cars at an early age, like most boys, but I also could identify makes of cars from the '30s and '40s when I was 4. To me, that's weird, but the truth. So, I've always loved cars and have a nice collection of factory models from my youth as well as too many newer reproductions. I loved washing and fixing up my parent's cars, as well as my own, when I was old enough to drive. I've restored a '46 Cadillac and a '53 Olds Convertible in my younger years, and always did my own mechanical work, initially with knowledge and help from others.

Who are the car hobby people? I have been blessed for over 70 years to have met so many folks who were dedicated to the car hobby. Notice, I say "folks," because some of them were women. These are people who are highly intelligent, talented, and hard working. Some might say these people are too intelligent and capable to spend their time, attention to detail, and creativity on a hobby like restoring an old car, building a hot rod for show, or re-designing the appearance or mechanicals of some old car. Why aren't they using their talents and intellect on space, science, inventing better work environments, or some other such "more worthwhile" activity. Well, some have and some haven't, but that doesn't matter in my opinion. They are enjoying creating memories, improving original production design flaws, or creating a piece of art for themselves to enjoy and for others to appreciate. Some folks even do it just for the intellectual and physical challenge or as an escape from reality and the pressures of family or work life. Since they can, why not take something that has been discarded — or would have been — and turn it into something useful and attractive?

continued...

Are these project cars practical? Sometimes. But often, they're rebuilt and/or maintained with **LOVE** — love for a particular car due to looks, history, fun to drive, the challenge, or simply the fun of working on a creative project. There is nothing wrong with making something purely for the fun of showing off your abilities or interests to people who can appreciate them. It's rewarding to get the praise of peers and others for the time, effort, and talent displayed. The car hobby gives us the opportunity to have a channel — a "tool" may be more fitting — to gain the positive feeling we all need from inside us and from others.

I like the fact that many "Car Guys" lend their talents to help others with their projects and challenges. This is such an important part of the car hobby. Without it, people like me in the '50, '60s, and '70s may never have gotten involved. But it's also critical today, because there are too few professional mechanics who can troubleshoot and fix a truly "mechanical" car. In fact, I've had too many people — even mechanics — ask me what kind of car my MGB is. Car guys probably have more nuts, bolts, washers, wire splices, repair kits, common trouble replacement parts, and troubleshooting tools than the average modern car garage does. Modern mechanics are taught how to use computers to trouble-shoot problems and remove and replace parts, instead of taking failed components apart and repairing them.

Helping others is another part of the "car hobby" many people enjoy. The camaraderie of working on a problem with others can be fun and rewarding for all involved. It also helps to have a "second set of eyes" on a problem to help with the diagnosing. Sharing of talents is rewarding because it helps people get to know each other better, let alone the knowledge benefit and cost savings such activity can provide.

Thanks to all of you who are car hobbyists. You are important on many levels and the time we spend together is irreplaceable.

Originally written and published for **The Connecting Rod** newsletter for Corvair Atlanta, Inc., March, 2021



Abandoned, Old & Interesting Places

Feb 23, 2014 · 🌐

Sometimes when you're out riding and looking for old and interesting things, you spot something that's just plain odd! Like this poor little Edgecombe County MG that looks like it was left parked a little too long in one spot... ;) (Posted by Mark)



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Turns out it was a marble in the ashtray...



ROXANN CANNISTRA is sharing jokes and cartoons with us over the next few months! Enjoy! Have a chuckle!

It's a five minute walk from my house to the pub.

It's a 35 minute walk from the pub to my house.

The difference is staggering.

DID – U – KNOW

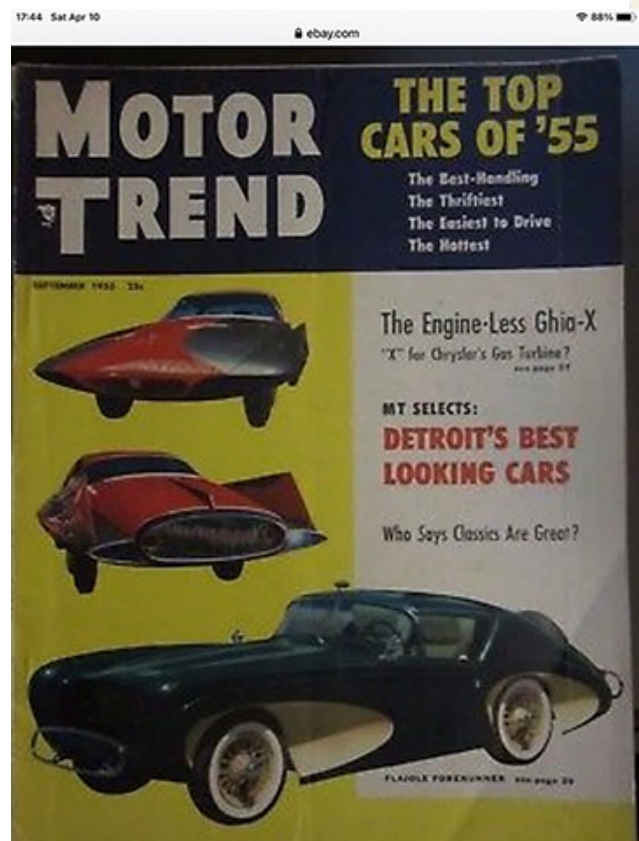
by Facia Nearside

If you look up the word "Forerunner" in the dictionary you will find it means "a person or thing paving the way for success or accomplishments of another". Interestingly it is also the name of a technically- advanced automobile developed in 1955 by an innovative designer whom you've probably never heard of, William Flajole. Yet you certainly have seen some of his creations without even realizing it.

Bill Flajole was born in Flint Michigan in 1915 where as a teenager he developed a keen interest in sketching automobile designs. His ideas impressed Walter Chrysler sufficiently that Bill was offered a job upon high school graduation. Over the next several years he was hired away, first by General Motors then Ford, eventually working on the first Lincoln

Continental. After WWII Flajole established an independent design consulting firm. His work included everything from toys to caskets to mobile homes, and he is even credited with designing the first double wide mobile home. However, his most recognizable contribution debuted in 1953, the Nash Metropolitan (DUK2019/6).

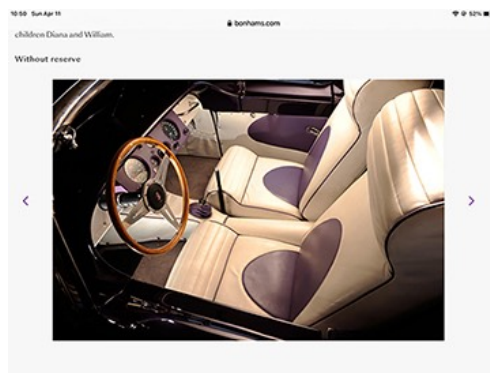
In 1954 Flajole custom designed a Nash-Healey for baseball legend Ted Williams, then in 1955 he built a one-off design called the Forerunner to showcase his talent and ideas.



Starting with a Jaguar XK120 chassis, Flajole sculpted a futuristic fiberglass body incorporating wheel scoops, a prominent feature copied by Corvette one year later. The car featured hidden headlights, aircraft style bucket seats, a retractable Plexiglass sliding roof, fastback low-drag styling, a louvred hood, and minimalist bumpers. Flajole used the Forerunner as his daily transportation well into the 1970s and it always attracted attention, just as he intended. Sadly, William Flajole passed away in 1999.

Although originally dark green and beige this historically important vehicle received a show quality restoration featuring metallic purple paint with white coves and purple and white leather upholstery to match. The Forerunner remains a significant example of 1950s design creativity and innovation embracing new materials and concepts. Initially donated to the Blackhawk Automotive Museum following restoration, the car has since come into private hands. It was last sold in 2012 for \$200,000.

DUK2021/4



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

New membership applications are available on the club's website.
Register by sending your completed application to:

Connie Frazier, Treasurer
British Boots and Bonnets Car Club
PMB 254
1643 North Alpine Rd. Suite 104
Rockford, IL 61107

Please include \$20 annual membership dues plus a one-time fee of \$18 for name tags.



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"thud-clunk-thud"	\$100.00
"clang-thudc-clang"	\$300.00
"Can't describe it"	\$500.00



**BRITISH
BOOTS &
BONNETS
CAR CLUB
2020 OFFICERS &
CHAIRPERSONS**

PRESIDENT: Lee Kindgren
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Regalia club merchandise is available by contacting Dennis Klemm. This includes:

BBB Grill Badge - \$30

BBB Hat/Lapel Pin - \$1

BBB caps - \$10 (2 left)

British flags for cars - \$5

BBB wall clock - \$15

All other regalia can be purchased online via our BBB Regalia Page found on our Club's website.

You buy online, securely pay with your credit card, and select one of the following delivery options:

Shipped directly to you (additional fee)

Pick up at Embroid This (no charge)

Dennis, denklemm@aol.com

Lynda Vickery, *Chronicles Editor*
British Boots & Bonnets Car Club
5549 Gray Eagle Road
Roscoe, IL 61073



Next Meeting
Wednesday, April 21 2021

Thunder Bay Grille
7652 Potawatomi Trail, Rockford, Illinois
(near East State Street and Bell School Road),

Social hour at 6:30pm.
Dinner begins at 7:00pm